

WESTERN STATESMAN.

"Liberty and UNION, now and forever, one and inseparable."

L. TRAVIS & R. S. BETH.

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THE WESTERN STATESMAN

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REPORT OF THE POST MASTER GENERAL.

We learn from this document that the total transportation of the mail by horse and in stages, rail road and steamboat, for the year ending 30th June, 1844, was 14,163,743 miles, at a cost of \$1,038,051, was 25,009,524 miles, exceeding the transportation for the year 1841 by 113,160 miles.

The income of the Department for the year ending 30th June, 1844, was as follows:

Letter postage,	\$3,676,161 53
Newspaper postage,	540,743 93
Fines,	155 00
Miscellaneous receipts,	11,215 47
Total revenue reported,	\$4,237,285 93

The total amount of expenditure settled and paid for the same period, is \$4,206,867 76.

The Post Master General felicitates the country upon the fact that the current expenses of the service have been met by the current revenue. The revenue collected by post masters, with few exceptions, has been promptly paid, and the service well performed, except in the South-west, where obstructions have been encountered in the shape of floods, rains, &c., which no vigilance could overcome. (Good boats between Charleston and Wilmington might.)

The number of cases of mail depredations reported to the Department, for three years preceding the 12th of October, 1844, is 1,024. Amount of mail lost, \$249,125.

Amount of money recovered, or loss satisfactorily ascertained, \$304,242. One hundred mail depredations have been arrested and tried, during the same period.

OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

Part of the Secretary of War, acting under the President's Message, states in force of the Army to consist of regiments of Infantry, four of Artillery, and of Dragoons, under the command of Major General. The Secretary has recommended the geographical divisions of the Army, without, however, destroying the departments as established by the order of July, 1842. A fort erected at the Madawaska settlement, recent acquisition on North-eastern frontier for the protection of our citizens. A military post has been established at Copper Harbor, on the peninsula that juts far into Lake Superior, to preserve order in that region. Two other posts are to be established between Copper Harbor and St. Pierre, to complete the cordon of forts to the navigation of the Mississippi. It is recommended in the horse or Artillery.

The Secretary is in favor of maintaining an establishment at West Point. A number of vacancies amongst officers, from all casualties, are to be filled. The report recommends a law allowing every twenty-five years faithful service of land and the privilege of a furlough upon full pay, with the understanding that his commission is to be at the end of that time. This will enable officers to retire from the Army, and become too old for other employment, and aid promotion by encouraging them under circumstances to the officer.

The Secretary suggests important additions to the military fortifications upon the sea-board. The report urges the erection of forts south of Cape Dauphin Island in the Gulf of Mexico, Key West, and the Dry Tortugas, mentioned as appropriate sites. With the Naval Depot at Key West, and forts overlooking the navigation of the Gulf and every vessel that enters the Gulf, the report recommends that the United States would be the naval power in that sea.

The organization of a company of sappers is recommended; also, the construction of a national foundry.

Appropriation of \$100,000 is recommended to construct military posts from the river to the Rocky Mountains, in conjunction with a territorial or-

ganization and a military force placed in the dividing ridge between the waters that flow into the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific, would give effect to our title to Oregon Territory.

The report contains a variety of useful suggestions in relation to Indian affairs, the improvement in the navigation of the Western waters, (we notice, particularly, a suggestion to place a permanent fund under the Department to provide for keeping the Red River open at the raft and other matters, which our limits will not allow us to incorporate in this brief analysis; but of which we propose speaking at another time.)

FROM THE LOCOFEROE MOVING COUNTRY.

Captain Thomas Cobbs, an eccentric old gentleman, lived in Bedford county, Va. He was born in a considerable patrimony, and was raised in the lap of luxury. He owned an excellent farm on Flat Creek, and negroes cultivated his estate; but he paid but little attention to the plantation, suffering his negroes to work or not as best suited their feelings. His wife was an excellent woman, but possessed no little energy as herself. The common question was, that Captain Cobbs' crops always fell short of his expenses, until at length he began to feel the pinch of hard times. He became in debt, and was daily annoyed with debt, and not infrequently, the sheriff laid him a visit. When the time to pay his taxes came round, he had no money, and his wife frequently had to beg the money of her father-in-law to prevent the sale of a negro.

The negro-house was destitute of meat, and the corn-house of corn. The negroes of course were half-starved, and barely miserable poor. His children were kept at home, growing up to idleness and vice. Not being able to send his children to school, he seemed to distress the Captain more than any thing else.

Fortunately for the Captain, a man by the name of William Boshier, called on him early in the spring of 1838, to get a situation as overseer. The Captain promptly told him that he could not employ him unless he would find himself and family, and assist in getting something for the negroes and horses to eat until a crop could be made; and that if he could do this, he might have half of what he could make, deducting supplies for the family. Mr. Boshier, after examining the farm and negroes, acceded to the Captain's proposition, and set in immediately to work. The first year Boshier raised nearly meat enough for the family, and had some corn for sale—made tobacco sufficient, not only to pay taxes, but to send the children to school. The second year every thing was plenty—even money enough to send his sons to college.

During the third year of Boshier's administration, Cobbs got into a considerable frolic, and was absent from home nearly two weeks, (for he would never come home intoxicated on account of the distress which his appearance in that condition occasioned his wife.) When he had got pretty sober, he returned home, and as he alighted from his horse, his wife met him at the gate. Looking over at Boshier's house which was not far off, and seeing several horses tied near it, the Captain exclaimed, "Nancy, my dear, what are all them horses doing there at Billy Boshier's?" (Several persons coming out of Boshier's house at this moment.) The Captain continued, "what Nancy is all this retinue and concourse of people doing at Billy Boshier's?" Why, Mr. Cobbs, replied his wife, "didn't you know that Billy Boshier was about to die?" "What, Nancy, Billy Boshier about to die?"—you know my dear, we can't spare Billy Boshier!—you know madam, the situation we were in when Billy Boshier came here—we couldn't give our negroes any meat—in fact, could not give them bread enough—we couldn't send our children to school, nor even pay taxes? But now, we can feed our negroes well, we have fat horses, plenty of meat and bread, make tobacco enough to pay our taxes and send our sons to college, and some money left besides. I'll be d—d madam, if we can spare Billy Boshier!" "Lord, Captain Cobbs, what makes you talk so? If God wants him, he will have him." "By G—d, madam, I will go and see to the matter myself!" and he went immediately over to Boshier's house. Several neighbors were standing around the bedside, expecting every moment to see Boshier breathe his last breath, when the Captain entered the house. He accosted Boshier thus: "Billy, my boy, what is the matter?" "O, Capt. Cobbs, I am nearly gone." "Why, Billy, we can't spare you—we can't spare you. Billy! Billy! G—d, you can't go yet—you can't go yet—you can't go yet—you can't go yet!" "I wish I could stay with you longer, Captain Cobbs—you've been mighty good to me; but I'm obliged to go—I wish you had come sooner Captain, you might have done something for me." "You must not die, Billy. And let us all pray," said the Captain.

"O, most holy and righteous God, thou knowest what was our situation before we got Billy Boshier—thou knowest that we could neither feed our negroes or horses, or send our children to school—not even pay our taxes! And now, O God, thou seest we feed our poor slaves, and our horses, and send our children to school, and pay our taxes besides—we have plenty of meat and plenty of bread! Yes, corn to sell, and meat to sell? O, Lord God, we

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smoke them to spare Billy Boshier. Boshier, good Lord, we smoke them! And if, O God! thou must have somebody, take him Boshier, or Adam Driskill, or Daniel Driskill, Samuel Warrick and Bill Warrick, and all present, if it please thee; but spare Billy Boshier! O, spare Billy, good Lord, and I and Nancy will be thankful all our lives. Amen."

"Billy, good fellow," said the Captain, "give passing, how do you feel now?" "A little better I think, Captain," replied Billy. "Well, now Billy," said the Captain, "you won't get no more trouble! I'll attend to the negroes for a few days, and all will be well. The Lord will spare you for the sake of my poor helpless negroes, and my little children!"

Boshier was well in a week, and attending to his business.

The Whigs and Democrats of the town and parish of Natchitoches agreed amongst themselves, previous to the Presidential election, to procure the necessary ammunition to fire two hundred and fifty rounds in honor of the successful candidate. The flag staffs of the two parties were within a few yards of one another, and from their respective positions, the Whigs and Democrats, with the aid of the wind of heaven, it was stipulated that upon the result of the canvass being ascertained, a national salute of thirteen guns should be fired, when the banner of the defeated party should be lowered to the ground,—that done, the firing of the remainder of the two hundred and fifty guns should be resumed.

When the intelligence of Mr. Polk's election reached Natchitoches, both parties assembled under their respective flag staffs. The firing was begun, and at the thirteenth discharge the Whigs lowered the ensign of Clay and Frelinghuysen, amid a profound silence as ever reigned over the citadel of the dead. The firing was then continued, without further demonstration on the part of the Democrats of an exulting character.

Amongst the Whigs was one deaf and dumb from birth. When the Clay banner was removed from the ground, after the discharge of the thirteen guns, to a building near by, he went away and was not seen again until the firing was ended. He was then discovered, with his face buried in the folds of the fallen flag, and in a posture betokening the sincerest anguish. He had been a compositor in one of the printing offices of the village, and had embraced the Whig cause with the ardor peculiar to the fervid sensibilities of that bereft class of persons. When the emblem of his faith was no longer to be seen floating in the mid-air, there was no need for one like him at the meeting. The booming cannon pealed its thunders in vain—such things could neither assuage nor aggravate his grief. Nor could the condolence of friends reach his bruised spirit. The consolation of interchanging words of comfort with his brethren, was denied him by nature. He could only follow the symbol of his creed, speechless like himself, and fallen as were the hopes that ere while warmed his bosom with the glow of joyous expectation. When he raised his head from the flag, tears were coursing down his cheeks and his eyes were dim with weeping. It was the only mode that misfortune had left him to throw off the pressure from his heart. Whig or Democrat were alike affected by this touching spectacle of sorrow. Nor did any one seek to disturb him in any way. The citizens dispersed each to his own home, and whether it was from sympathy for a fellow being despoiled by nature of the most important attributes of man, or a proneness of the heart to partake of the woe that is without guile, many a sturdy Democrat and stalwart Whig brushed away the dew that gathered upon their eye-lids, as they pondered upon the speechless grief of the sorrow-stricken mute.—Pittsburg.

REMARKABLE INCREASE IN THE POPULAR VOTE.—Mr. Clay received in the late election a much larger popular vote than was given to Gen. Harrison in 1840. Notwithstanding this he is beaten, while Gen. Harrison left Mr. Van Buren (not estimating the vote of South Carolina) some 145,000 votes behind! But perhaps the most marvellous circumstance is in the magical increase of the vote in the strong Locofoco sections of the country. To say nothing of the *Truth Legion* and *Little Tennessee* in Virginia for the present, let us look at some of the strong Locofoco counties in Pennsylvania, and compare the vote of 1844 with the census of 1840. According to the census, the whole number of adult males in Berks county in 1840 was 13,414—votes in 1844, 12,674; in Pike, 848 adult males and 920 voters; York, 10,023 adult males and 9,308 voters; Monroe, 2,034 adult males and 2,220 voters; Tioga, 3,342 adult males and 3,367 voters; Perry, 3,561 adult males and 3,671 voters; Columbia, 5,033 adult males and 5,108 voters; and Potter,

732 adult males and 724 voters! This is certainly a remarkable result! and the more when we contrast it with the strong Whig counties in that State. For example, in Philadelphia city there were in 1840, 19,187 adult males, and in 1844 only 14,084 voters; in Lancaster, 18,019 adult males, and 15,336 voters; in Erie, 7,315 adult males and 6,847 voters; in Allegheny, 18,390 adult males and 13,926 voters, and so on. Now, the wonder is not so much that there has been so great an augmentation in the number of voters, but that the ratio of increase is so much larger in the Locofoco than the Whig counties. We suppose that fecundity does not depend upon political opinions; and yet it would seem so! But even if the Locos "multiply and replenish" more rapidly than the Whigs, still we are perplexed to account for the fact that there seems to be more voters than adult males in some of the Locofoco counties, while in all the Whig counties the adult males outnumber the voters, the difference in some of them amounting to 5,000! How does this happen? If the Locos were ever guilty of fraud or pilferage, it might indeed be accounted for; but, as they are manifestly indignant at even the bare suspicion of such things on the part of the Whigs, of course it cannot be supposed that they are ever guilty of perpetrating them. Yet the foregoing facts have an "awful meaning" that way!—Lynchburg Virginian.

THE NEW TERRITORY OF NEBRASCA.—The Secretary of war proposes to establish a new territory at the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, on the head waters of the Platte and the Arkansas, to be called the territory of Nebraska. We believe this is the Indian name of the Platte river. This territory would be on our own acknowledged soil, and would command the grand pass between the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean. Near this spot rises the lofty peaks of the northern Andes, around whose brows circle perpetual snows. On either side rolls down the waters which mingle with the Gulf of Mexico on this side—with the Gulf of California on the south-west, and with the broad Pacific, as it washes the western coast of America.

The advantages of this position, in a military or colonial point of view are immense. It would make the journey of the emigrants west comparatively easy. They would have both defence and rest. In case of interference from foreign powers, the troops of the nation would be ready to descend either on the south, or on the Pacific outlets of Oregon, or move on the British territories of the north. It is the great central position of the north American Continent, marked out by the God of Nature as remarkable, by the magnificence of its mountains, its streams, and its extent! Whoever possesses and brings up future generations on its high central plateau, will be unconquerable in position and energy.

The Secretary also recommends a chain of military posts on our own Territory, extending from Missouri to the Rocky Mountains. Against this no nation can say a word. It is on our own soil, and we must possess it.

We are perfectly aware that to many powers these are strange ideas, and they see not why we should be in haste, as they call it, to extend the bounds of empire. But this extraordinary march of dominion is our destiny. We cannot avoid it if we would. We ought then to take measures with foresight, and leave the future to be the result of more fortuitous events. We have three thousand people already on the waters of Columbia, and we ought to look after them, and look steadily at that velocity of progress which we can neither be blind to, nor prevent.—For our parts, we receive the Secretary's proposition with favor. We hail with joy every step in the progress of our nation and our age.

Cincinnati Chronicle.

FOREIGN GOLD.—The extravagance and recklessness with which the supply of foreign gold has been used by our locofoco opponents, has made it necessary for them to make another call, and during the past week the agents of the party have been soliciting funds of the resident foreign importers in this city, upon the ground that their interests would be promoted by breaking down the tariff. The reply of the head of one of the most important of these houses to an application which was urged on these grounds, was not more creditable than just. He said that he had not, and would not, interfere in the politics of this country; and that the tariff was not injurious to him as an importer; that its operation was to prevent over importations, and to preserve stability in the market, and all that he desired was, that the law should be faithfully executed, and smuggling entirely prevented.

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